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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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MBC meetings to be listed in Oct. 23 issue

The Baptist Record will publish in the issue of October 23 a listing of all meetings associated with the October 28-29 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The list will include seminary luncheons, college receptions, and special meetings such as chaplains, bivocational pastors, and annuitants.

Persons authorized to announce such meetings are asked to notify The Baptist Record at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Fax: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org. To ensure accuracy, no announcements will be accepted by telephone. Deadline is October 16.

Please include in each announcement the name of the sponsoring group, time and place of event, cost per person, speakers, and speakers' affiliations. Also include a contact person along with a telephone number and e-mail address for reservations (if required) and information.

WMU inaugurates year of celebration

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

With all the historical pageantry befitting such a milestone, the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Missions Celebration on October 3-4 at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, kicked off a 12-month celebration in honor of 125 years of service by faithful Mississippi WMU members.

The celebration's theme, Light the Way, was intended to position the Baptist women's auxiliary for another 125 years of service — and beyond. Mississippi WMU Betty Davis of McComb presided over the two-day celebration.

Mississippi WMU began formally in 1878. According to historical records, H. A. Tupper of the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., asked Mrs. J. L. Johnson of Oxford to serve as chairman of the "Central Committee" in Mississippi to interest Baptist women in the work of spreading the Gospel around the world. The first statewide meeting was held at First Church, Grenada, in November 1879.

While the Grenada meeting is cited as the official beginning of Mississippi WMU, evidence exists that there were missionary societies meeting at least 40 years earlier.

The 2003 Missions Celebration included historical vignettes, congregational and special music, remembrances from past WMU leaders, and addresses from state and national leaders.

An added attraction was the Historical Maze. Several classrooms and corridors of Harrisburg Church were decorated and outfitted to provide opportunities for those attending to meet missionaries, parents of missionaries, and to view elaborate historical



WMU PRESIDENTS — A highlight of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Annual Missions Celebration October 3-4 at Harrisburg Church in Tupelo was the reunion of six past presidents: (from left) Frances Smira, 1974-78; Pattie Dent, 1979-83; Ewilda Fancher, 1984-88; Joan Tyler, 1989-92; Sandra Nash, 1993-96; and Rebecca Williams, 1997-2000. Betty Davis (far right) is the current WMU president. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

displays. Breakout sessions, including strategies for praying for pastors and ministering to Muslims, were included in the program.

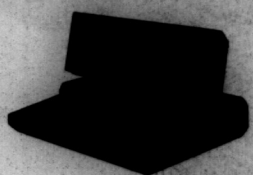
Speakers included Janet Hoffman, national WMU president; Lewis and Toni Myers, Last Frontier missionaries; David George, WMU Foundation; Gloria and Tom Thurman, International Mission Board emeritus missionaries; and Kay Bennett, North American Mission Board missionary. Other missionaries were featured, as were missionary parents, during the flag processional.

George announced that the state WMU endowment was being named the Kay Cassibry Endowment for the Future of Mississippi WMU. Cassibry is the current Mississippi WMU executive director.

Recently-released statistics indicate Mississippi WMU enjoyed an 18.4% growth rate last year, placing it among the top five Southern Baptist states.

"WMU has kept its focus and has continued to pray," Cassibry said. "I credit a lot of this growth to the faithful prayers of those women in the small churches who can't get out and take big mission trips, but can and do pray. They pray for those mission fields that others don't think about, but those countries are written up in our curriculum, and our ladies pray for them. There's a history of WMU and these ladies know the values that it has given to their lives. It's not about accelerating an organization, but it is the best avenue for ladies to use the gifts God has given them."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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It's been hard to miss the Mississippi Gaming Association's latest advertising blitz, designed once again to convince us that the state is a better place thanks to legalized gambling. The expensive saturation campaign is merely the latest in a series of vapid attempts by the political/gambling complex in Mississippi to persuade the populace that gambling's economic high tide has lifted all boats.

It just isn't so. Despite all the soothing rhetoric being pushed by gambling interests, the simple fact is that Mississippi is no better off with gambling than it would be without gambling — maybe even worse because of gambling — but don't rely on the opinion of the editor of *The Baptist Record* as expressed in these pages. Consider the unbiased conclusions just announced by the federal government's Bureau of the Census.

On September 26, the Bureau released *Poverty in the United States: 2002*, a definitive report that found only nine states where the poverty rate has increased over the past three years. Of course, Mississippi was one of those states with a 17.6% poverty rate. That's almost six points, or a whopping 50%, higher than the national average. Only Arkansas had a worse number at 18%, considered to be a statistical tie with Mississippi.

In addition, the Census report indicates Mississippi lost about 7.5% of its median household income over the last three years, despite growing gambling revenues and glowing reports on the economic impact of those revenues. The number of jobless Mississippians remains above the national average, too, according to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission.

If Mississippi is a better place thanks to legalized gambling, as the Mississippi Gaming Association would have us believe, it certainly doesn't show up in the statistics. As the old saying goes, "Figures don't lie but liars figure." Such being the case, it seems the Mississippi Gaming Association and its political toadies have been doing a lot of "figuring" lately.

World Hunger Sunday will be observed across the Southern Baptist Convention on October 12. Every time I read the third chapter of First John, I am reminded that we, who have many of the richest blessings of God, are expected to share our lives with our fellow men and women through faith and action.

This idea is especially close to my thoughts tonight as I write this article from our Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit truck in operation in Richmond, Va., feeding victims of Hurricane Isabel. As I observe volunteers live this faith by giving a warm meal to those in need, I know that this is how we must change our world.

When I served as a minister of education, I often helped with world hunger missions for a variety of our organizations. Many times I inquired as to whether funds for this type of outreach actually made an impact on the lives of others.

Finally, I witnessed the outcome of the utilization of the World Hunger Offering. It was 1985, and the place was Mexico City. Disaster teams descended upon the city following a mas-

Liars figure

A comparison with the states that surround Mississippi makes the disconnect between gambling and economic progress even more stark. Arkansas, in a statistical dead heat with Mississippi for last place in the Census poverty report, has no widespread Nevada-style casino gambling (although limited racetrack betting is permitted). Mississippi does have widespread Nevada-style casino gambling, and we are no better off economically than a neighboring state that doesn't have it.

Louisiana has Nevada-style casino gambling and yet their poverty rate was listed in the Census report at 17%. That appears to be a mighty high number for another state where, like Mississippi, the economic benefits of widespread legal gambling were sold as the answer to all economic problems. Of the three states, two have widespread gambling and one doesn't, yet the poverty rate is almost identical.

Neighbors Tennessee and Alabama, which have no widespread Nevada-style casino gambling (but do condone other limited forms of gambling), had a poverty rate of 14.2% and 14.6%, respectively. If legalized Nevada-style gambling is such a godsend, why are our neighbors without it doing significantly better than we're doing with it?

It's a disgrace that the gambling/political complex in Mississippi has deceived us for years with glitter and empty promises, but it is even more disgraceful that we bought their story and continue to this day to swallow their lies. We have sown the wind, and we're reaping the whirlwind.

As children wait for hours in locked cars under the hot summer sun, their parents gamble away the family's financial security

"THERE'S SO MUCH POP PSYCHOLOGY AROUND THESE DAYS — I LIKE TO THINK OF THE GOSPEL AS FATHER PSYCHOLOGY!"

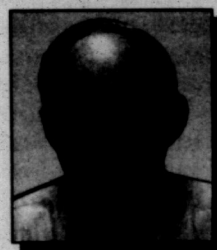


inside the luxurious gambling palaces. As million-dollar jackpots are reported on the evening news, little attention is paid to soup kitchens packed beyond capacity and church benevolence funds strained to the limit. As casinos take possession of more and more real estate lost to gambling, we don't seem to notice the increasing numbers of families showing up at homeless shelters.

Our prisons fill up with bank employees, police officers, our neighbors, and even our spouses as they cheat and steal to pay suffocating debts to casinos, but we go about our daily lives as if we are unaffected. Violent robberies increase, people are killed, and the criminals head straight to the "boats" to feed their addiction. Yet we look the other way.

Welcome to Mississippi, the buckle of the Bible Belt. Doesn't it make you proud to say that?

GUEST OPINION:



A hungry world

By Jim Didlake, director
Men's Ministry Department
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

sive earthquake. The International Mission Board decided to use World Hunger Offering funds to provide food for thousands of victims. These funds began to assist in meeting critical physical needs, but the physical effect was only the beginning. People began to ask, "Why would you work so hard to help us?" They asked questions while volunteers responded with the message of Christ.

Thousands expressed their faith in Jesus, and new churches began. It was then that I realized that the funding for this work actually made a difference.

Turn the clock ahead to Gaza in the Middle East, in 2002. We asked volunteers to venture into a foreign land and share

food purchased through World Hunger Offering funds. Palestinians asked, "Did you Americans really come here because you love us?" Hungry mothers begged for food for their starving children.

Through these funds, people were fed, the message of Christ was shared, and lives were changed. They had seen a love that they could not understand or explain. Southern Baptists had opened another door through the World Hunger Offering.

Floods inundated Russia in September 2002. Early surveys indicated an immediate response by the government, but supplies would soon be gone. We decided that World Hunger Offering funds could

make a difference; yet, no one could have imagined the results. We saw youth beaming as they packed bags of food. Pastors became excited regarding opportunities for their churches.

The greatest result, however, was for the people of Russia to see that their church could be a place to meet needs and change communities as opposed to a place where archaic worship services were held. Men and women stood in 14-degree weather to hear about Jesus. In one church 57 people found God.

Other efforts were made to reach the physical needs, but it was through World Hunger Offering funds that people began to see the love around them. Through this great act of love, churches in Russia learned of outreach and moved outside their walls.

Does it work? Yes. I see the difference in each opportunity I am given. I hope you also will continue to understand the tremendous touch of this special work. You are reaching the world through a ministry that is different but effective.

Jesus taught us to go to the ends of the Earth. Because of you, this is possible.

Kelley leery of executive committee request

NEW ORLEANS (ABP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) will decide this fall whether to continue as the lone holdout among Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities by refusing to make the SBC the "sole member" of their corporation.

The SBC's Executive Committee in Nashville asked all the convention's schools and mission boards to make the legal change to prevent its trustee boards from exercising the kind of break several colleges have made with state Baptist conventions across the SBC.

More than 10 years ago, for example, trustees of Baylor University in Waco, Texas, said they feared a fundamentalist takeover of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) and amended the university's charter to remove the BGCT's authority to name the majority of Baylor's board.

Similar action taken by five agencies of the Missouri Baptist Convention, where leadership has taken over that identifies itself as more conservative than previous administrations, is being challenged in court.

NOBTS President Chuck Kelley has said he opposes on principle the naming of the SBC as the seminary's "sole member" and conceives of no situation under which the seminary would or could depart from the SBC.

The legal change requested by the Executive Committee would not alter the way seminary trustees are elected, nor would it change the current governance of the seminary. However, it would give the SBC legal authority to overrule

or remove the elected trustees if those trustees acted against the wishes of the convention.

Kelley opened the academic year at NOBTS on September 4 with a convocation address explaining the situation to faculty, staff, and students. His topic was the autonomous organizational structure of Baptists.

To accede to the Executive Committee's request "could start a fundamental change in historic Baptist polity and compromise our practice of

organizational autonomy," he declared. It also would introduce a form of connectionalism into Baptist life, he said, and start "a movement away from the decisive influence of the SBC and toward a direct control by the SBC."

As evidence of where this connectionalism could lead, Kelley pointed to recent debates over the future of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. In a recent address to members of the Missouri Baptist Convention's Executive Board, Missouri pastor David Baker reported that an SBC Funding Study Committee was considering closing or changing the focus of Midwestern Seminary.

That prompted an editorial in the Missouri Baptist Convention's newspaper, the

Pathway, where one of the Missouri participants in the Seminary Funding Committee discussion was quoted.

In that small-group meeting, David Tolliver asked what would happen if Midwestern's trustees didn't go along with the proposed change. He said he understood SBC officials to say they would ask the convention to remove the seminary's entire trustee board.

In an attempt to quell the concern Tolliver generated among Missouri Baptists with that report, the president of the SBC Executive Committee released a letter to state Baptist paper editors Sept. 18. In the letter, Morris Chapman says no such threat was made.

Chapman concurs that the question was asked about what would happen if Midwestern's trustees did not consent to a change in status proposed by the SBC, but he recalls a different nuance to the answer.

"I answered the question by saying: 'The SBC has left itself

no recourse to overturn governing actions of an entity's trustees. The only course of action available to the SBC is the possibility of removing the trustees by vote of the convention in session.'"

Chapman added in his letter that such a step never has been taken and he can't imagine

it happening. Nevertheless, Kelley saw danger in the mere suggestion.

"To my knowledge, this stunning suggestion is unprecedented in Southern Baptist history," he said. "Knowing that Midwestern Seminary had already made the SBC the sole member of its corporation, these members of the SBC Executive Committee were assuming the power of sole membership made it possible to change an entire board of trustees at one convention. Whether they were right or

wrong in their interpretation, such a suggestion would not have been made prior to the sole membership strategy."

Kelley warned the NOBTS family: "The change to sole membership suggests a new power would be in play at the denominational level. ...I believe it is impossible to say sole membership would never be used for anything but its original stated purpose."

Kelley lamented that SBC conservatives, after gaining control of all SBC boards through presidential appointments in the 1980s and '90s, would resort to such tactics to ensure they wouldn't have to call on God for a miracle again.

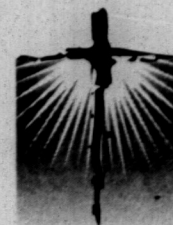
"It saddens me that the biblical conservatives would be the group of record taking the first step toward connectionalism at



Kelley



Chapman



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THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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the national level of SBC life," he said. The risks of allowing SBC entities to remain fully autonomous are more palatable than the risks of connectionalism, Kelley declared.

Another official with the SBC Executive Committee agreed with Kelley that "connectionalism should always be avoided," but said he believes the Executive Committee's request is of a different order.

Kelley has "inappropriately applied connectionalism, called 'hierarchicalism' by some, to the corporate subsidiary realm, an area to which it has no relevance," said Augie Boto, vice president for convention policy with the SBC Executive Committee.

"The Southern Baptist Convention's use of sole membership only affirms the legal relationship between the SBC and its entities and has no bearing on the authority or autonomy of the local church. Because that autonomy is unaffected, painting sole membership with the black brush of connectionalism is unjustifiable."

Looking back

10 years ago

Four Mississippi Baptist churches celebrate significant anniversaries: Crystal Springs, 100 years; First, Canton, 150 years; First, New Albany, 150 years; and Providence, Lebanon Association, 175 years.

20 years ago

More than 300 alumni, friends, and students of Clarke College gather on the Baptist-affiliated, two-year school's Newton campus for a special day of celebration in honor of the 75th anniversary of the college. Special recognitions were awarded to several individuals and groups.

50 years ago

A letter from evangelist Billy Graham states: "We had an option to buy an estate in Colorado for the purpose of a spiritual retreat. We have decided not to go ahead with the project. I am convinced that the Lord would have me concentrate on evangelism."

Week ahead

Week ahead: Oct. 12-18. The week ahead includes the following events:

Oct. 12: The 100th anniversary of the Crystal Springs Baptist Church. The church will hold a special service at 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: The 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Canton. The church will hold a special service at 7 p.m.

Oct. 14: The 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of New Albany. The church will hold a special service at 7 p.m.

Oct. 15: The 175th anniversary of the Providence Baptist Church. The church will hold a special service at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3332 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 332. E-mail: jporter@mbcb.org.

Trammell to address '03 Pastors' Conf.

Stephen Trammell, senior pastor of Florida Boulevard Church in Baton Rouge, has been added to the roster of speakers for the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference October 27 at First Church, Jackson. In keeping with the theme of the conference, he will preach on Kingdom People during the evening session.



Trammell

Trammell is a graduate and current trustee of Louisiana College in Pineville, and he also holds master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

The 2003 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference will begin with the afternoon session at 1:30 p.m. on October 27. The evening session will begin at 7 p.m.

Scheduled speakers include Don Boone, pastor of First Church, Louisville; Shannon Marshall, pastor of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville; Gene Henderson, pastor of First Church, Brandon; Al Mohler, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; and Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Ok.

In conjunction with the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference, childcare sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be available beginning at noon on October 27. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call First Church, Jackson, at (601) 949-1904 or (601) 949-1912. Please see article at right for childcare details.

For more information on the conference, contact Bob Dominy, conference president and pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon, at P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39043. Telephone: (601) 939-6282.

NOBTS music classes to begin October 20

October 20 begins the second of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary. The eight courses are:

- Song Leading
- Worship Planning
- Reading Music: Rhythm & Pitch
- Reading Music: Harmony & Melody
- Hymnology
- Music Administration & Staff Relations
- Survey of Music Resources
- Class Voice

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length. The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite.

Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$90. Scholarships are available for first-time students. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The second course, Worship Planning, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and time:

• **Broadmoor Church, Madison** — beginning October 20 (7-9 p.m.); Jimmy McCaleb, Teacher.

• **Handsboro Church, Gulfport** — beginning October 20 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.); Louis White, Teacher.

• **First Church, Booneville** — beginning October 20 (7-9 p.m.); LuAnne Ford, Teacher.

• **Northcrest Church, Meridian** — beginning October 20 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.); Buddy McElroy, Teacher.

• **Hernando Church, Hernando** — beginning October 20 (7-9 p.m.); Barry Tweedy, Teacher.

• **Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia** — beginning October 21 (6:30-8:30 p.m.); Kenny Adams, Teacher.

• **Meadville Church, Meadville** — beginning October 21 (6:30-8:30 p.m.); Chuck McMinn, Teacher.

• **Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale** —

beginning October 20 (7-9 p.m.); Hugh Plunkett, Teacher.

• **Calhoun Baptist Association** - beginning October 21 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.) Jim Keyser, Teacher.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state, where eight to ten students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact coordinator Jimmy McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (292) 3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

Childcare details

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will provide childcare for the 2003 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) and related events at First Church, Jackson, beginning at noon on October 27 for the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference and the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Wives Conference. Childcare will close immediately after the adjournment of the final session of the convention at 11:30 a.m. on October 29.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call First Church, Jackson, at (601) 949-1904 or (601) 949-1912. Childcare procedures are as follows:

- Pre-registration must include name of child/children, name of parents, and home church.
- A security card will be issued for each child upon arrival.

Children may remain in the preschool area during the convention lunch break on October 28, if parents provide a sack lunch.

The convention board wishes to thank the preschool ministry of First Church, Jackson, for providing administrative support and childcare personnel. Childcare is being funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

The church's preschool department is located at the drive-through just off the intersection of State and College Streets, north of the church Skywalk.

THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THE BIBLE

For some time now, Southern Baptists have been involved in discussions, debates, and even battles about the Bible. In fact, for almost two decades the Bible and its importance have been at the forefront of conversations about who we are and what we believe. Is the Bible truly the Word of God? Can you believe the Bible? Is it trustworthy? Is the Bible the guide and rule for Christian living? And, while many have said lots to these questions related to God's Word, Mississippi Baptists have said yes, yes, and yes! We are a people who believe the Bible. We have, we do, and by God's grace we will go on following God's Word.

I have listened as Sunday School teachers have stood and taught the Word of God. I have listened as our pastors have opened the book and preached God's message from Scripture. I have been in personal conversations where the Word of God was the blueprint for whatever issue was being addressed. We believe the Bible, not what someone says about the Bible or just some interpretation of the Bible, we believe God's Word! In many wonderful ways we have been blessed in Mississippi. We have not been embroiled in the heat of argument over the Word of God, but rather we have just continued to believe and follow the Word of God.

Recently, I was sitting in a Discipleship Training rally and was reminded again of one of the reasons why Mississippi Baptists have been so



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

blessed and have been anchored in the Book for so long. It is just one feature, but my what an important part it is not only in our history but our present. Each year Mississippi Baptists lead the Southern Baptist Convention in participation in Bible Drills. If that seems rather insignificant to you, read on and consider this.

This past year the number of children who participated in Bible Drills at the State level was over 1,800. Now, let's put that in perspective. If you took the number two and the number three states in the Southern Baptist Convention and combined them, you would have about that number. Then, when you look at youth who were involved in Bible Drills just at the State level, you would discover that over 1,600 of them participated. In order to have the same number you would have to take the second, third, and fourth states in the Southern Baptist Convention and combine them. Now, the significance of that is found in the truth from the heart of the Psalmist when he said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against God."

While we certainly want our children to learn phonics, algebra, music, or some athletic skill, nothing, absolutely nothing is more important than the Word of God

becoming a part of their make-up. Today, I still have the skills and resources I acquired decades and decades ago in what back then we called Sword Drill, now called Bible Drill. To know the 66 books of the Bible in order, to quote verses, and to understand how doctrinal teachings come from the Word of God are brought to focus for all of these young people year after year. Growing up in a Christian environment at home and at church leads to an understanding that the Word of God is not only important — but it is vital. God's Word is not only trustworthy — it is essential, and it can remain a source of strength, help, and guidance for a lifetime providing a foundation for living.

This year the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department is doing a new thing here in Mississippi that has not been done before. They are going to help adults do Bible Drill. It will not only be a good thing, but a fun thing! I want to encourage you and your church to be involved in Bible Drill. It is really not all that difficult. If one person will take an interest in some children, youth, or even adults, and simply call the Discipleship & Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3284), they can get materials and be on their way to enjoying an experience in the Word of God and investing in lives for a lifetime. "Study to show..." (II Timothy 2:15) has no age limitations and each of us need the Word.

I hope you will get involved in some way at some level so that you will be blessed and you will be a blessing!

Analysis: False prophets abound in WOF

By Justin Peters
Correspondent

Third in a series

I believe the Word of Faith (WOF) movement is home to many false prophets. Both the Old and New Testaments are replete with warnings about false prophets and, on at least two occasions, the Apostle Paul called out by name men who were teaching false doctrine (1 Tim. 1:18-20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18). There is, therefore, biblical precedent for calling by name purveyors of spiritual error. Such action should not be undertaken lightly, however, so the names that follow are included only after great study and careful analysis:

• **Kenneth Hagin.** Recently passed away, he is considered the father of the modern WOF movement. Hagin claimed that his faith teachings came to him by divine revelation, but they were actually the product of his extensive plagiarizing of Essek W. Kenyon.

Hagin's son, Kenneth Jr., carries on his father's work as pastor of Rhema Bible Church and head of its school in Tulsa, Ok. Boasting of at least eight personal visits from Christ, Hagin, as did his father, blurs the crisp

line between Creator and created as in, "You are as much the incarnation of God as Jesus Christ was. The believer is as much an incarnation as was Jesus of Nazareth."

• **Kenneth Copeland.** Along with his wife Gloria, the Copelands are considered to be two of the movement's more intellectual leaders. Students of Hagin Sr., the Copelands have built a multi-million dollar "Christian" media empire.

Kenneth Copeland is known for his deification of man. According to Copeland, the Holy Spirit personally told him, "A born again man [Jesus] defeated Satan. You are the very copy of that one." Incredulous, Copeland then asked the Holy Spirit, "Well, now, you don't mean that I could have done the same thing?" (emphasis original) Replied the Holy Spirit, "Oh yeah, if you'd had the knowledge of the Word of God that He did. 'Cause you're a reborn man too." This, sadly, just scratches the surface with Copeland.

• **Jesse Duplantis.** With little doubt, this self-labeled Cajun preacher is the most entertaining of the WOF leaders. He is well known for his comedic style, prosperity teachings, and

personal visits from Christ. (Regarding the latter, do you see a pattern developing?)

In his Voice of the Covenant magazine Duplantis claims, "The very first thing on Jesus' agenda was to get rid of poverty." In his video Close Encounters of the God Kind, Duplantis relates how one day he was ushered into Heaven itself. There King David told Jesse that he regretted writing some of his Psalms (what does this imply about biblical inerrancy?) and then upon seeing Jesus, Jesse noted that He "was taller than I thought He would be."

Safely back on earth, one day Jesse sensed that Jesus was sad over something. After being asked what was wrong by the concerned Duplantis, the Alpha and Omega told him, "I need you, boy." (emphasis original)

• **Creflo Dollar.** This rather aptly named preacher is pastor of World Changers Church International in Atlanta, and is prominently featured on Trinity Broadcasting Network. He preaches the prosperity gospel quite convincingly. He confidently asserts that Jesus wore designer clothes and that that prosperity can be ours provided that we "sow a seed" into his ministry.

Even more disturbing, though, is Dollar's outright denial of the deity of Christ: "If

Jesus came as God, then why did God have to anoint Him? Jesus came as a man, that's why it was legal to anoint Him." (emphasis original)

Space does not permit me to go into detail on all of the WOF leaders. Others to watch include Paul and Jan Crouch, Marilyn Hickey, Paul Cain, John Avanzini, Joyce Meyer, Mike Murdock, Rod Parsely, and R.W. Shambach.

Be wary also of preachers who share their pulpit with these people. Most preachers are very protective of their pulpits and rightly so; whom a preacher invites to fill his pulpit speaks to what that preacher believes.

Again — please understand, gentle reader, that this is not a personal attack on anyone. This is a call for discernment. Though I wish that this call was not necessary, both the present reality and the Word of God (Matt. 24:11; 2 Cor. 11:13f; 2 Pet. 2:1) indicate that it is.

Peters is interim minister of education at First Church, Vicksburg. He holds a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in Biblical Languages and a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. Peters can be contacted at (601) 636-2493 or by e-mail: jpeters@fbcvicksburg.org. Next week: How Scripture exposes false prophets in our midst.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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V IDTQ JWW IDAA UQVZ,
VWX IDAA DWRZQVTQ
AQVZWDWP; VWX V JWW
BC SWXQZTEVWWDWP
TUVAA VEEVDW SWEB
IDTQ RBSWTQAT:
NZBKQZYT BWQ: CDKQ

Clue: J = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews 2:1

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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PS Form 3526, October 1999

(See Instructions on Reverse)

13. Publication Title THE BAPTIST RECORD		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 9-25-03	
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(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541		0	
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f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d. and 15e.)		537	
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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>William Perkins Jr.</i>		Date 9-27-03	

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- In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
- Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
- Item 15h. Copies not Distributed, must include (1) newstand copies originally stated on Form 3541, and returned to the publisher, (2) estimated returns from news agents, and (3), copies for office use, leftovers, spoiled, and all other copies not distributed.
- If the publication had Periodicals authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
- In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
- Item 17 must be signed.
Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of Periodicals authorization.

PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

S. Maddox to address Min. Wives meeting

Native Mississippian Sarah Maddox of Cordova, Tn., will be the featured speaker for the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference October 27 at



Maddox

First Church, Jackson. The conference will begin at 1:15 p.m. and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Maddox is a graduate of Mississippi College who has been a conference and retreat speaker for more than 20 years. Much of her speaking has centered around parents praying for their children. She has written A Mother's Garden of Prayer, and A Mother's Garden of Prayer Journal. She has also been a contributor to the North American Mission Board's devotional book, HeartCall: The Call to Prayer.

Maddox's father, the late Joe Odle, was a longtime Mississippi pastor who also served as editor of The Baptist Record for 17 years. Her husband Roland Maddox recently retired as a vice-president of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville and now serves as president of the Love Worth Finding broadcast ministry of Bellevue Church, Cordova.

The conference is free, and registration is requested. To register or for more information on the conference, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3305 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 305. E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org.

In conjunction with the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference, childcare sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will be available beginning at noon on October 27. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call First Church, Jackson, at (601) 949-1904 or (601) 949-1912. Please see page four of this issue for childcare details.

The Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference is a ministry of the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and is funded by gifts Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Pearson Church, Pearl, will present Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames October 12-14. Times are Sunday at 6 p.m., and Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (601) 939-3618.

Southway, Brookhaven: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. with a fellowship meal to follow; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Reid, speaking; Ken Hedgepeth, music; Leon Wallace, pastor.

Trinity, Philadelphia: Oct. 20-22; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Dodds, Sarepta, La., evangelist; Paul Davis, Northcrest, Meridian, music; Wayne Hill, pastor.

Liberty Hill, Pope: Oct. 12-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Donald Estes, speaking.

Clear Branch, Florence: Oct. 12; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; R.C. Rice, guest pastor; Joe McGraw, music; Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.

Line Creek, Scott: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allan Stephens and Bob Dominy, speaking; Joe Styron, music; Scott Walters, pastor; Tal Vardaman, minister of music; for more information call (601) 732-2339.

Providence, Cleveland: Oct. 10-12; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch will follow; music and afternoon worship, 1:30 p.m.; Joe Cole, evangelist; Hugh Plunkett, music evangelist; Providence, quartet; Steve Maughan, pastor; all are welcome.

Holly Springs, Brookhaven: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Joe Deere, Union Hall, Brookhaven, evangelist; Jason Britt, music; Glen McInnis, pastor.

Calvary, Braxton: Oct. 12; 25th anniversary; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch and fellowship will follow; Glen Kelly, Westminster, S.C., preaching; Jeff Wedgeworth, music; Charles Case, interim pastor.

Midway, Jackson: Nov. 23; 60th anniversary; a luncheon will follow morning worship; David Wilkinson, former pastor, speaking; Charles Gentry, pastor; for more information call (601) 922-3064.

Siloam, West Point: Oct. 12; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch will follow; J. B. Miller, former pastor, preaching; Stan Proctor, pastor; for more information call (662) 494-1705.

Fayette, Fayette: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, lunch and afternoon worship will follow morning worship; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Corkey Evans, evangelist; Eddie King, song leader; Edna King, pianist.

Cairo, Ecu: Oct. 12-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Ken Hester, First, Pontotoc, evangelist.

Pocahontas, Clinton: Oct. 12-15; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ron Bird, speaker; Joe Cole, music; Michael Bird, pastor.

Tuscola, Lena: Oct. 12; 105th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a fellowship lunch will be served at noon; afternoon worship, 1:30 p.m.; David Rives, guest speaker; Smith Sanders, pastor.

Cherry Creek, Ecu: Oct. 11 and 12; 160th anniversary; Sat., \$7 fish fry 2-5 p.m., bake sale 5-5:45 p.m., Gospel singing at 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will follow; Lydle Davis, former pastor, speaking; The Heismans, Unforgiven, Emily Robbins, and Miranda McGlaughlin, singing.

Spring Hill, Waterford: Oct. 12; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; a potluck meal will follow; music, 1:30 p.m.; Bobby McKay, speaker.

Roxie, Roxie: Oct. 19; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Shane Price, former youth, music, and education director, speaking; Behind the Cross, music; all are welcome.

OBITUARIES



McGee

J. Ron McGee, 58, died September 10 at Rush Hospital in Meridian. Services were held September 13 at Highland Church, Meridian, with Carl White, Thomas Broadhead, and Ennis Hyman officiating. Burial followed in the Forest Lawn Cemetery.

McGee served as minister of education at Highland Church. He attended Mobile College and Southern Baptist Seminary, and he served in the U. S. Army.

Survivors include his wife, Cindy McGee; 2 daughters, Lisa McGee and Laura McGee; son, Jimmy McGee; mother, Dorothy McGee; sister, Julie Temples; and two grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by O. C. Barham Funeral Home, Meridian. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Highland Church Bus Fund or the Go See Do Club.

James R. "Deke" Jones died May 14 near his home in Pass Christian.

Jones received his doctorate in Religious Education from NOBTS and taught in Graceville, Fla., for 20 years. Jones served as minister of education in several states. He served J. D. Gray, First Church, New Orleans, La., and was on staff at the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his wife of 56

years, Carolyn Church Jones and his son, Robert A. Jones.

Carolyn Jones' address is 116 Shadow Lawn, Pass Christian, 39571.

N. F. Greer, 78, died September 21 at Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Services were held September 23.

Greer was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. He served in the Stewardship Department of the MBCB and

was the Director of the Stewardship Department of the Alabama Baptist Convention. He also served in the U. S. Navy. Greer was the minister of New Salem Church, Franklin.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Lily Beth Greer; daughter, Deborah Kim Greer; son, Mark Greer; 3 sisters, Wilma Grace Brister, Gladys Reeves, and Bernice Sumrall; and brother, R. V. Greer.

Arrangements were made by Brookhaven Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to New Salem Church 2nd Floor Building Fund.

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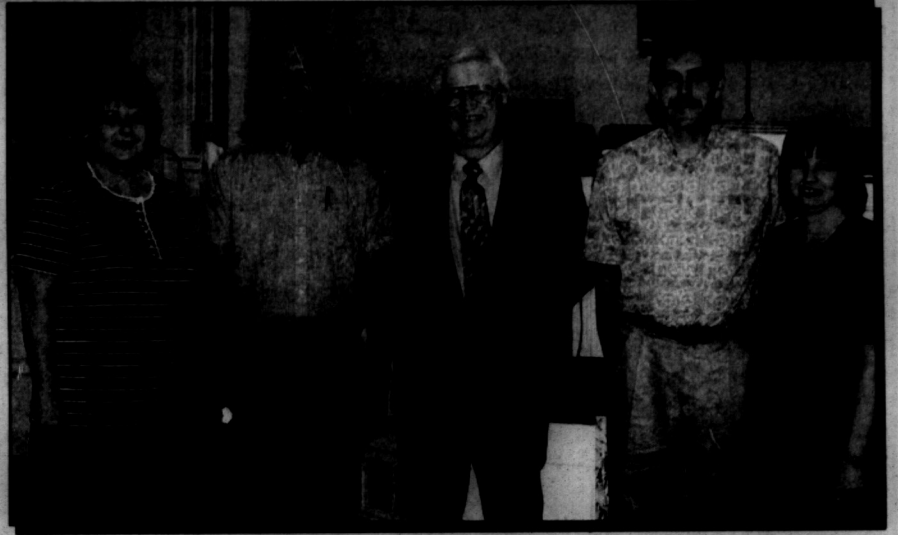
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Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, recently honored Glen Smith, pastor, and his wife Suzanne during a patriotic celebration for 10 years of service. They were honored with a plaque, flowers, and a fellowship meal.



First Church McComb, Note-Burning
First Church, McComb, Lynn, Betty Jo Hewitt, Brooks
 burned the note on their \$4 mil- Polk, and Ronnie Wilkinson.

Lynn, Betty Jo Hewitt, Brooks Polk, and Ronnie Wilkinson.

A preacher ordination service for Dewayne Robinson was held September 28 at Northrup Chapel Church, Quitman.

Kolola Springs Church. Caledonia, awarded Sunday School perfect attendance pins September 21. Bill Frye was awarded a pin for twenty years perfect attendance. Coy Frye was

awarded a pin for three years. Kim Frye, Karen Frye, E. R. Murphy, and Anne Murphy each received a pin for one year.

Springfield Church, Morton, recently ordained Daniel Napp and Riley Dollar as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Mary Nell and Daniel Napp, Frank Lay, pastor, and Riley and Rebecca Dollar.

Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg, ordained Darrin Pickett as a deacon on September 14. Pictured (from left) are Keith Fulton, pastor, Pickett, Noah Pickett, and Linda Pickett.



Eastwood Church, Indianola, ordained Mac Steed and Oneal Wheatley as deacons on September 14. Pictured (from left) are Steed, Billy R. Thomas, pastor, and Oneal Wheatley.

First Church, Maben, has called Tommy Temple as pastor. Temple attended Mississippi State University, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He comes from Shadnor First Church, Union City, Ga.

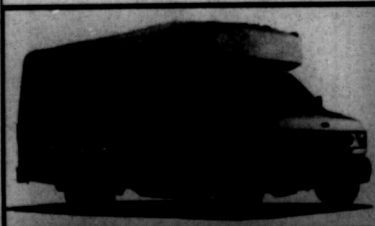
Derek Simmons has been called as pastor of Bucatunna Church, Clarke Association, effective October 5.

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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

David Magers, a faculty member in the chemistry and biochemistry departments of Mississippi College, Clinton, since 1989, has been chosen as the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for 2003-2004. The Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lectureship was established in 1988 and is given to a faculty member who exemplifies excellent teaching and has an established record of publication for creative work in their field. Magers' lecture is entitled *Some Thoughts on Science by a Practicing Scientist*. The program will be held on October 23 in Anderson Hall, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

First Church, Gautier, will host a concert by **Leo Day**, assistant professor of voice at New Orleans Seminary, on October 26 at 6 p.m. **Susan Lofton Landry** will be the pianist. Admission is free and all are welcome. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (228) 497-4050.

William Carey College will present *A Different Moon* October 16-18 at 8 p.m. at the O. L. Quave Theatre, Hattiesburg. The production is co-sponsored by Bancorp South. Seats may be reserved by calling (601) 318-6221. The box office will be open daily from 1-4 p.m. beginning October 13.

The Baptist Student Union at **Blue Mountain College** has created four fine arts teams that are available for worship services, retreats, youth meetings, banquets, and revivals. The teams are *Disciple's Cross*, a praise band; *Open Vessels*, a clown/puppet ministry; *King's Troupe*, a drama group; and *Reflections*, a singing ensemble. Revival and retreat teams are also available upon request. For more information, call (662) 685-4771, ext. 137.

The Baptist Education and Scholarship Committee of **First Church, McComb**, recently awarded college scholarships to **Nicholas Jones**, Mississippi College,

and **Jacob Gill**, New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), and seminary scholarships to **Jad Khalaf**, NOBTS, and **Barry Busby**, NOBTS.

The Waites family of Laurel and Hattiesburg established a \$10,000 scholarship for students majoring in music at **William Carey College**. The **Mary Catherine Chapman Waites Endowed Scholarship Fund** was established by **James C. Waites** and his wife, **Thad F. Waites** and his wife, and **Mary Waites Lewey** to honor their mother. Pictured (from left) are **Larry Kennedy**, president of WCC, **Josephine** and **James Waites**.

Pictured are **William Carey College School of Nursing** student **Erica Walters**, **Ovett**,

Vicky Foxworth, Hattiesburg, and **Tobi Berry**, instructor of nursing, preparing for the community service day at **Turtle Creek Mall**, Hattiesburg. Sponsored by **Wesley Medical Center**, the community service day gave mall goers a chance to have their blood pressure checked by WCC students and receive other health related information. To learn more about the CSNA's community service projects, call (601) 318-6147.

Female William Carey College students participated in a flag ceremony during fall Convocation held recently on the Hattiesburg campus. Thirty students, wearing traditional costumes representing the countries where the word of God is forbidden, laid

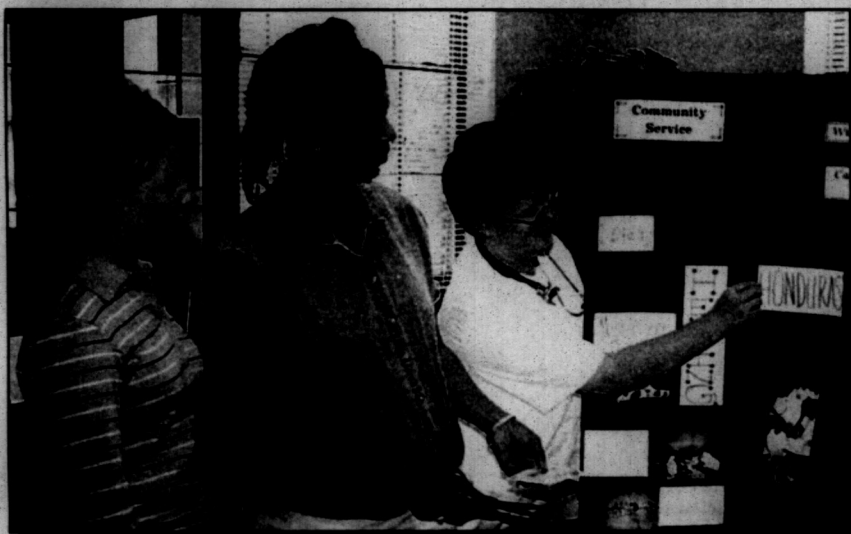
flags on the auditorium stage representing nearly 1.68 billion people who have never heard about Jesus Christ. **Sharon Thompson**, missions coordinator at Carey, organized the ceremony.

Larry Kennedy, president of William Carey College, and **Linda Donnell**, member of the WCC Board of Trustees, are pictured with **Argile Smith**, keynote speaker at the Carey Lecture series held on the Hattiesburg campus recently. Smith is chair of the division of pastoral ministries at NOBTS. The Carey Lectures are held on the Hattiesburg campus, honoring the college's namesake and the Christian missions effort.

Bancorp South donated

\$10,000 to the William Carey College theatre program for the 2003-2004 academic year. Carey's theatre program received the Governor's Award for Collegiate Excellence in the Theatre Arts during ceremonies held in Jackson in 2002. Pictured (from left) are **Larry Kennedy**, president of WCC, **David Bush**, Bancorp South executive vice president Hattiesburg division, and **Ted J. Webb**, president of the Hattiesburg division.

Two William Carey College students, **Jason Stoker** and **Christine Robinson**, served as missionaries in Moscow, Russia, in July with the **Petal-Harvey Church, Petal**, Collegiate Ministry for two weeks. This was an International Mission Board and International Sports Federation sponsored event.



Erica Walters (left), Vicky Foxworth (center), and Tobi Berry



Kennedy (left), Linda Donnell, (center), and Argile Smith



William Carey College Flag Ceremony



Kennedy (left), accepts scholarship from the Clawsons



Kennedy (left), and the Waites

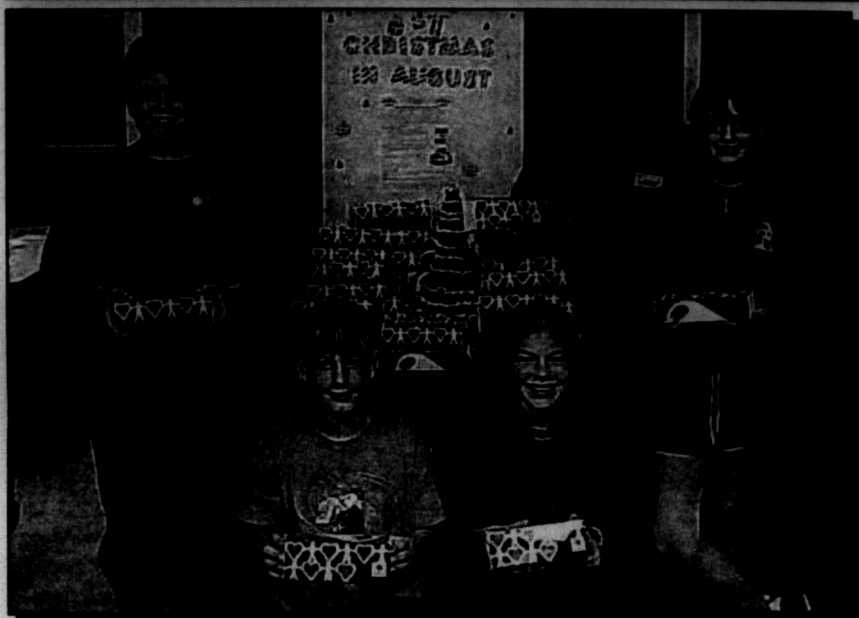


Kennedy (left), David Bush (center), and Ted Webb



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Children in Action of Shelton Church, Moselle

Star Church, Star, will host Judgement House, Land of the Free, Home of the Brave, On October 25 - 26 and November 1 - 2 from 5-9 p.m. Groups of 15 or more must make reservations. For more information, call (601) 845-2736.

First Church, Madison, will host its Fall Festival October 19. Concession stands, games and exhibits will be open from 4-6 p.m. This year's event features three outdoor mini-concerts by The Naturals, Mississippi College. Let the Good Times Roll will be performed at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. A concert of sacred music will be held at 6:30 p.m. Participants need to bring lawn chairs. For more information, call (601) 856-6177, ext. 203.

Trinity First Church, Wayne, held a note burning ceremony for their new gym at the beginning of their homecoming on August 17. The gym was constructed in September 2002 with a debt in excess of \$50,000.

The Acteens of **Evergreen Church, Louisville,** attended the National Acteens Convention in Nashville, Tenn., July 29-August 1. There were 6,500 Acteens who attended convention sessions and participated in The Prayer Walk to the Capitol. The girls went to area schools and completed projects such as gardening, moving school books, moving a complete classroom, picking up trash, washing windows, and cleaning. Pictured (from left, front) are Paige Papalambros, Ayla Vaughn, Kayla Shumaker, (back) Courtney Partridge, Sarah Peeples, Chelsey Holland, Laura Foster, Beth Papalambros, and AnnaClaire Peeples.

Harmontown Church, Como, announces their ground breaking for a new family life center. The size will be 125 by 100 feet. The building is setback for the future home of the new church.

During August members of the **Children In Action of Shelton Church, Moselle,** participated in Christmas In August.

The children collected and filled 150 friendship boxes for the Pine Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross. Friendship boxes are given to children involved in disasters and fire families. The boxes are used locally and nationally by the American Red Cross. Pictured (from left, kneeling) are Justin Hill, Christian Bunch, (standing) Justin Willoughby, Magen McDurmond, and Peggy Owens-Mansfield, Director, Pine Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In July, students from **Wade Baptist High School, Moss Point,** traveled to the Mexican border and assisted Primera Iglesia Bautista of La Grulla, Texas, complete an addition to their building. The students also led in a VBS, which resulted in 7 salvation decisions. Philip Price is minister of education and youth. Bill Barton is pastor.

Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln, has been selected as a nominee for the Charles Haddon Spurgeon Awards. The Awards are presented annually by the Billy Graham School of Ministries, Southern Baptist Seminary, to recognize certain outstanding congregations as models of church health. Churches are selected for the nomination predicated on their performance including evangelism, worship, fellowship, discipleship, and community involvement. Winners are

announced at an annual banquet at the Ministry Conference Center on the campus of the seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Immanuel Church, Columbus, held revival services September 14-17. Keith Fordham was the evangelist and Stephen Pritchett lead worship. Ten people were saved, three youth were called to the ministry, and there were three letters for church membership. Roy McKay is pastor.

Little Bahala Church, Lincoln, honored their widows with a lunch at Western Sizzlin on September 27 and had a special recognition for them on September 28 presenting them

with a certificate, roses, and candy. They are Quennie Beard, Jessie Louise Wilson, Lydia Martin, Ernestine Armond, Elsie Ashley, Sue Foshee, and Edouida Smith.



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Acteens of Evergreen Church, Louisville



Students from Wade High School, Moss Point

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Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OLOH IS searching for a full-time minister of youth and education. Send resume with photo to personnel committee to First Baptist Church of Oloh, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

FBC MAGEE IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME minister of youth and activities director. Please send resumes to youth search committee, c/o Mike McAlpin, P.O. Box 266, Magee, MS 39111.

ORGANIST, CASTLEWOODS Baptist Church. Send a letter of interest or resume to 175 Stonecastle Drive, Brandon, MS 39047, via email or fax. Fax number (601) 992-2623. For information call (601) 992-9977.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS position. Send resumes to minister of students search committee, Grace Memorial

Baptist Church, 2412 23rd Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, Miss., is looking for a part-time associate minister to help meet the needs of this caring church with outreach programs and homebound ministry. For more information, contact Dr. Greg Wolfe, pastor, P.O. Box 13675, Jackson, MS 39236. Phone (601) 368-2983.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SHANNON, Miss. is currently accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 21, Shannon, MS 38868. Attention Danny Simmons.

PRAYING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH minister for our growing youth group. If you

have a heart for youth and want to join God where He is working, send a resume to New Prospect Baptist Church, 2197 Hwy 25, Iuka, MS 38852.

SONG LEADER NEEDED: SUNFLOWER Baptist Church, in Sunflower, Miss. is looking for someone to lead the music during the Sunday morning worship service. A limited knowledge of music is acceptable, but this person should be able to direct a small choir. If interested please contact Nancy Parker at (662) 569-3315. Or call the pastor Ed Wood at (662) 569-2164.

CHERRY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, near Ecu, Miss., is searching for a pastor. Please send resumes to Edwin B. Baker, chairman pastor search committee, 5694 Highway 345, Pontotoc, MS 38863.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

JIMMY PORTER

LEE YANCY

REX WOOD

"CELEBRATE AMERICA!" BY DR. JIMMY PORTER

The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States reads, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The accomplishment of these ideals has not come without great sacrifice by the people of this great nation.

Referring to the pilots who fought the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." He was speaking before the House of Commons on August 20, 1940. The same can be said for the past and present members of American armed forces who have committed themselves to preserving the freedoms we enjoy as a nation.

On November 9, 2003 at 2:00 p.m., there will be a gigantic Celebrate America Rally in the Coliseum at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Miss. to honor our military personnel. A coalition of Mississippi businessmen and government agencies is planning this special event to pay tribute to the POWs from Operation Iraqi Freedom, the families of Mississippi soldiers killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Medal of Honor winners, all veterans from all wars or conflicts, and all military personnel serving in active duty. The patriotic service will begin promptly at 2 p.m. and will include music, prayers, and a keynote speaker. This will be one of the largest patriotic events ever held in our state. It is a way for Mississippians to say "thank you" to those who fight, if necessary, to preserve our freedoms.

This is a family event so you can be comfortable in bringing your children. It will be an excellent time to instill within them an appreciation for our country and the men and women who have suffered and sacrificed for us. Since most churches recognize all veterans prior to Veterans Day, attendance at this rally could be a part of your Sunday emphasis. Load up your vans and buses and come together and join thousands of others in showing your support for our armed forces. The program is planned to last an hour and

a half so you will have time to return for your evening worship. It will be a fun time but also a time to remember how blessed we are.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." We must never become apathetic toward that which we have, and we must never forget the responsibilities that come with our freedom. Tony Lawrence has stated, "Too many people are only willing to defend rights that are personally important to them. It's selfish ignorance, and it's exactly why totalitarian governments are able to get away with trampling on people. Freedom

does not mean freedom just for things I think I should be able to do. Freedom is for all of us. If people will not speak up for other people's rights, there will come a day when they will lose their own" (www.free.freespeech.org).

In America, the USA flag and its colors have significant meaning. Red, white, and blue makes a striking color combination, but have you ever wondered if there is any special meaning associated with those colors or with the

• White — signifies Purity and Innocence.

• Red — signifies Hardiness and Valor.

• Blue — signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.

The thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, of course, represented the original thirteen colonies. The five pointed stars used as a symbol in flag design was relatively rare until its incorporation into the American flag. It has since been used in many state flags and in foreign flags, including Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and the once sovereign nations of the Republic of Texas and the Kingdom of Hawaii. Based on the American usage, the star has come to

flag burned abroad and here at home. Thousands of protesters at home and abroad have screamed out their anti-

American slogans and have marched against our places of government.

Those who do such things never stop to realize that American soldiers, men and women, are dying every day to give them the freedom to act with such insanity.

We should all pause occasionally to, as the song says, "Count Your Many Blessings."

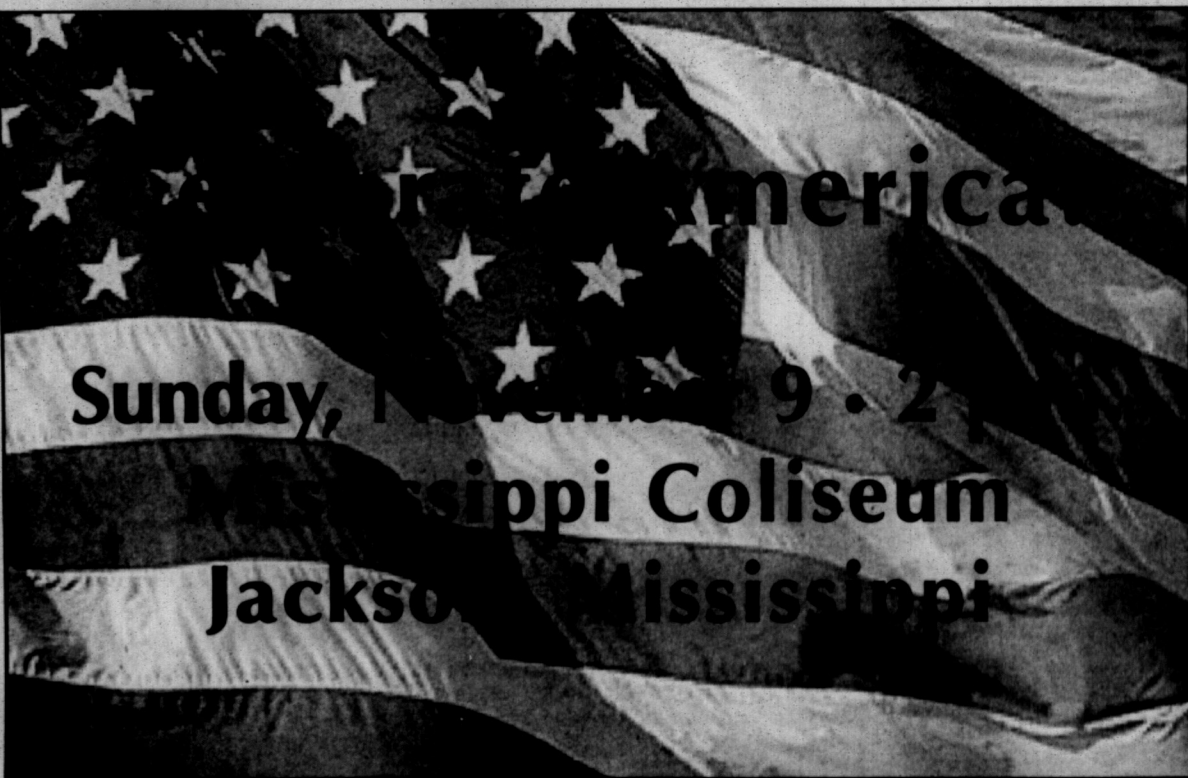
Sit down sometime and make a list of the things you enjoy here in

the U.S. and Mississippi that are often forbidden in other countries. The one freedom that immediately comes to mind is the ability to worship God without fear of reprisal by any government authority. You can own property and seek employment in the vocation of your choosing. You can travel about our country unrestricted, and can support any political candidate you choose.

You have the freedom of expression, to write or to say what you want. Sure, others will disagree and often take you to task, but you still have that freedom guaranteed to you by our Constitution. My list, like your list, would fill many pages, but let us be reminded that all our pages would be empty without the sweat, blood, and lives given by our military personnel.

My dad and his two brothers all wore Army uniforms during World War II. Because of them and thousands of others like them and their commitment to freedom and the Constitution of the United States of America, I am able to sit here today and write these few words to express without fear how I feel about my God and my country.

For this reason I will be at the Mississippi Fairgrounds Coliseum on November 9th at 2 p.m. to say "thank you" to all Mississippians who have and who are serving so gallantly in our armed forces. Share this information with your friends and join us as we CELEBRATE AMERICA!



Celebrate America
Sunday, November 9 • 2 p.m.
Mississippi Coliseum
Jackson, Mississippi

five pointed white stars on our "star spangled banner?"

On June 14, 1777, Congress adopted a resolution calling for a flag with thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, and with a blue canton or "union", with thirteen white stars. The resolution defined the significance of the colors:

be associated in flag design with unity, independence, or to represent the constituent parts of a nation.

Our nation has been slandered, ridiculed, and even despised by other nations because we have not only fought for our liberty but to liberate others. We have seen the American

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwood@mbcb.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Spirit Gives New Life

John 3:3-8; Romans 8:1-6, 9-11

By Jon Daniels

One of the joys of being a pastor is that of officiating at a Christian wedding. To see a Christian man and a Christian woman come together and begin a lifelong marriage covenant relationship is a special thing. The truth of "two becoming one" is a beautiful work of the Spirit in their lives.

Likewise, it is the work of the Spirit that makes us one with Christ when we enter into a salvation covenant relationship. He convicts of our need for a relationship with Christ. He calls us into that relationship with Christ. He convinces us that our relationship with Christ is right. He carries us through in our relationship with Christ.

These are powerful passages of Scripture that will help us see that it is the Spirit that gives new life to those who believe in Christ alone for their salvation.

He saves us and He keeps us saved.

SAVED BY THE SPIRIT - JOHN 3:3-8

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, "a member of the Jewish ruling council" (v. 1 NIV). He was a member of the Sanhedrin, a court of seventy members, the supreme court of the Jews.

There are two possible reasons for Nicodemus' nighttime encounter with Jesus:

1. It may have been a sign of caution in that Nicodemus did not want to commit himself by coming to Jesus in the daylight.

2. The rabbis felt that the best time to study the law was at night when one would be less likely to be disturbed. Because Jesus was constantly surrounded during the day, Nicodemus may have chosen the night so that he could have uninterrupted time with the Messiah.

Barclay states, "Nicodemus



Daniels

was a puzzled man, a man with many honors and yet with something lacking in his life. He came to Jesus for a talk so that somehow in the darkness of the night he might find light." (William Barclay, The Gospel of John, Vol. 1, p. 124.)

Jesus goes straight to the heart of the matter when he tells Nicodemus about the need for the new birth (v.3). The term for "again" can mean "again" or "from above." It is most likely that Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus, thinking that He meant "again" as in a second time (v.4). Jesus went on to explain that for one to enter the kingdom of heaven, one had to be "born of water and the Spirit" (v.5). The immediate context leads us to see the primary contrast between the physical birth (which Nicodemus asked about) and the spiritual birth. A person has to be born physically and born spiritually to be saved. When we are born by the Spirit, we are cleansed and purified from our sins through the

blood of Jesus. Though we cannot see the Spirit as we cannot see the wind (v. 8), the effects of His work can be seen. The Scriptures are clear that it is the Spirit that gives life (John 6:63; Romans 6:9).

SET FREE BY THE SPIRIT - ROMANS 8:1-6

Freedom is a wonderful blessing. Even now, many of our nation's armed forces personnel are serving in "Operation Enduring Freedom." They need our support and prayers.

The greatest enduring freedom that we have is the freedom that is ours when we are in Christ Jesus. The "Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus" (v. 2) has set us free from the condemnation of "the law of sin and of death" (v. 1, 3). The law of the Spirit is His controlling power over us when we submit ourselves to Him. The Old Testament law cannot control us. It can only point out our sin and our failings. The Spirit sets us free and gives us life. The law enslaves us and brings death. Through Christ, all the requirements of the law were

satisfied for us (v. 3-5). What incredible, enduring freedom to know that we are no longer under condemnation when we are born of the Spirit and set free by the Spirit! It changes our whole mindset from death to life and peace (v.6).

SECURE IN THE SPIRIT - ROMANS 8:9-11

The spiritual birth experience secures our eternal life. The resurrection power of Christ lives within us through the Spirit, guaranteeing our resurrection (v. 11). Spiritual birth also guarantees that Christ's righteousness has been imputed to us, another measure of our security in Him. Though we will still have to go through the experience of physical death (v. 10), we have full assurance that we will live eternally through the Spirit. Those who are still in the flesh, who do not have the Spirit, do not belong to God and have no security (v. 9). Make sure that the Spirit has saved you, set you free, and secured your eternity in Christ!

Daniels is pastor of Monticello Church, Monticello.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Caring Friends

Philippians 4:1-19

By Laura Russell

Dr. David Jeremiah writes: "I once heard about a minister who said he really loved the ministry; he just didn't like the people very much. 'That's how we all feel sometimes. If we can just love people in the abstract without ever having to love them concretely, we can live with that. But the Word of God never allows us that kind of general approach to life. God's Word has a way of focusing specifically on life.'"

We can never separate our relationship with God from our relationship with our fellow man. In our world today, people often know very few of their neighbors, and in many churches they know only a few of the other members. As a result they feel no responsibility toward others. They feel no compulsion to express concern. In our lesson

today, Paul talks to the Philippians about caring for and loving others.

HELP FRIENDS IN CONFLICT. (vv. 2-3)

Even though the Philippian church was doing a good job of standing firm in the Lord, Paul did need to discuss some relational problems with them. The two women, Euodia and Syntyche, had been workers for Christ in the church. They had had some sort of disagreement or falling out. This was no small matter, because many had become believers through their efforts. Paul was calling on these two women to live in harmony. He was also calling on the church members to help them with this conflict. It is possible to believe in Christ, work hard for His kingdom,



Russell

and still have a broken relationship with someone who is committed to the same cause. There is no excuse for remaining unreconciled. Therefore, Christians should show they care by assisting those having conflicts.

HELP FRIENDS WHO ARE ANXIOUS. (vv. 4-7)

It seems strange that a man in prison would tell a church to rejoice, but Paul's words teach us an important lesson — our inner attitudes do not have to reflect our outward circumstances. Paul is filled with joy because he knows that no matter what happens to him, Jesus Christ is with him. This is one of the many times in this letter that Paul urges the Philippians to be joyful, probably because they needed to hear it. It is easy to get discouraged about unpleasant circumstances, easy to be anxious about things that are happening. It is at these times that you need a caring comment or help from Christian friends. Paul showed

he cared for the Philippian Christians by reminding them of God's care and availability.

HELP FRIENDS IN NEED. (vv. 10-14)

This entire letter is about the Philippians' gift they gave Paul. He accepts the gift because he was in need and because they gave it willingly. Paul was commending the Philippian Christians for the expression of their care for him. Paul knew how to be content in any circumstance. He could see life from God's point of view. He focused on what he was supposed to do, not what he felt he should have. Paul pointed to contentment as the secret to gaining true joy and happiness. Contentment is simply an ability to be thankful and joyful no matter how much or how little we possess. When we realize Who has given us what we have, we can walk in contentment. Then the message of Philippians will not be limited to a four-chapter book in the Bible—it will be on display in our everyday experiences of life. Then we will be able to show how much

we care for others by helping those in need.

HELP FRIENDS AND PLEASE GOD. (vv. 15-19)

When we give to those in need, there is not only the benefit to the receiver, but we benefit as well. It wasn't the Philippians' gift, but their spirit of love and devotion that Paul appreciated most. Paul wasn't trying to get the Philippians to give more — he was encouraging their kindness and letting them know that there would be a reward. God was pleased with their help. Real love toward others produces tangible actions: kindness to strangers, sympathy for those who have been mistreated, and even financial help when there is a need. Sometimes we might think that God has forgotten us — that our efforts are in vain. God is never unfair. He never forgets or overlooks our work for Him. God knows your every effort of love, caring, and ministry for others.

Russell is member of First Church, McComb.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in the Baptist Record must be accompanied by a return address and must be received by the deadline of 11:00 a.m. on the 15th of the month preceding publication.

Photographs should be submitted in a separate envelope, clearly labeled with the name of the church and the event. Photographs should be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

News items and photographs are published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.



Photograph attachments

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital pictures are not acceptable. Photos should be submitted in a separate envelope, clearly labeled with the name of the church and the event. Photographs should be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

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Submit news and photographs to the Baptist Record, P.O. Box 100, McComb, MS 39205-0100. FAX: (662) 885-1111. E-mail: baptistrecord@mcch.org

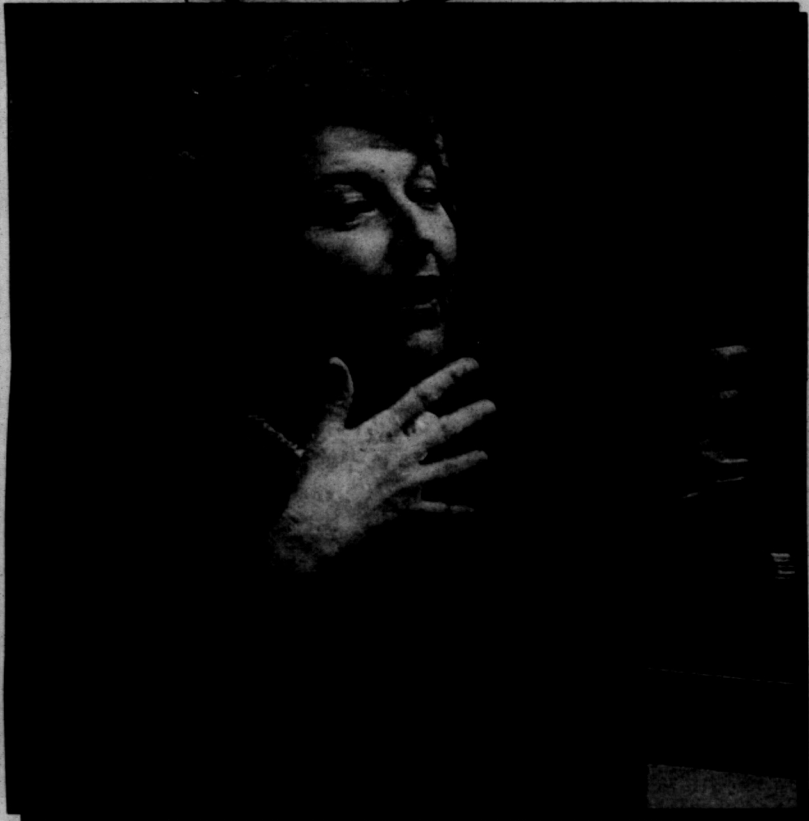
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Celebrating 125 Years of Woman's Missionary Union in Mississippi

Annual Missions Celebration • Harrisburg Church, Tupelo • October 3 - 4



Photos by Tony Martin